

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY D-WCHRISTOPHER:EDH  
APPROVED BY D - THE ACTING SECRETARY  
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

-----023707 130406Z /62

O 130329Z DEC 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296699 TOSEC 120154

NODIS  
CHEROKEE, P.TARNOFF FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITIES IN 1978

1. THE BULK OF THE CABINET MEETING MONDAY MORNING WAS DEVOTED TO A PRESENTATION BY THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND ENSUING DISCUSSION, OF THE PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 1978. THE ISSUES WERE LISTED UNDER FIVE CLASSIFICATIONS: (I) HIGHEST PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY, (II) HIGH PRIORITY PRESIDENTIAL, (III) STRONG PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST, (IV) HIGH PRIORITY NON-PRESIDENTIAL, AND (V) NON-PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY. ALTHOUGH THE PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENT HAD OBVIOUSLY GIVEN CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE PRIORITIZATION.

2. AN OVERALL LIST SHOWING THE PRIORITIES FOR BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ISSUES WAS HANDED OUT AND DISCUSSED BY THE CABINET. THIS OVERALL LIST WAS PICKED UP AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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END OF THE MEETING FOR SENSIBLE SECURITY REASONS. WE WERE GIVEN, FOR OUR REVIEW, A PAPER SHOWING THE NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES, LISTED UNDER THE FIVE PRIORITY CLASSIFICATIONS. WE ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE OUR COMMENTS BY THURSDAY NOON, DECEMBER 15. ALTHOUGH I HAVE SOME SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE END OF THIS TELEGRAM (PARAGRAPH 4) IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS A GOOD EFFORT

AND WE CAME OUT VERY WELL. IN THIS CONNECTION, I MIGHT SAY THERE ARE VERY FEW DOMESTIC ISSUES IN THE TOP CLASSIFICA-

TION (HIGHEST PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY). THUS, I WAS LARGELY  
SILENT DURING THE CABINET DISCUSSION.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PRIORITIZATION OF NATIONAL SECUR-  
ITY ISSUES AS GROUPED UNDER THE SPECIFIED CLASSIFICATIONS.  
COLUMNS TWO AND THREE BELOW WERE SET FORTH IN THE  
DOCUMENT UNDER THE LEGEND "SUGGESTED PUBLIC LEAD" AND  
"DATE."

I. HIGHEST PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY:

MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS-----VANCE-----CURRENT

PANAMA-----PRESIDENT--PRESIDENTIAL  
-----SPEECH IN FEB;  
-----RATIFICATION IN  
-----MARCH

SALT/CTB-----PRESIDENT--AGREEMENT IN  
-----APRIL; PRESI-  
-----DENTIAL SPEECH  
-----AND MAJOR  
-----THRUST FOR RATI-  
CONFIDENTIAL

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-----FICATION IN MAY,  
-----EXTENDING  
-----THROUGH SUMMER.

II. HIGH PRIORITY PRESIDENTIAL:

FY 79 BUDGET ISSUES-----PRESIDENT/--JAN-SEPT  
-----MCINTYRE &  
-----CABINET

TRIP TO EUROPE, MIDDLE  
EAST AND INDIA-----PRESIDENT---DEC 29 - JAN 6

TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA  
AND AFRICA (MAY ADD  
MOROCCO AND LIBERIA-----PRESIDENT---APRIL

NATO SUMMIT AND  
FOLLOW-ON-----PRESIDENT---MAY

ECONOMIC SUMMIT-----PRESIDENT---JULY

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS  
ON DEFENSE ISSUES/  
DECISIONS-----PRESIDENT----- (SEE PACING

NUCLEAR NON-

PROLIFERATION

LEGISLATION-----PRESIDENT/----N.A.  
-----VANCE

ARMS SALES-----PRESIDENT/----N.A.  
-----BRZEZINSKI/  
-----VANCE

OIL PRICE FREEZE-----PRESIDENT/----ONGOING  
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-----BRZEZINSKI/  
-----VANCE

III. STRONG PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST:

HUMAN RIGHTS-----VANCE-----ONGOING

GREY AREA SYSTEMS  
INITIATIVE-----BRZEZINSKI----MARCH

SOUTHERN AFRICA-----VANCE-----THROUGHOUT 1978

CYPRUS-TURKISH BASES;  
GREEK/TURKISH DCA'S-----VANCE-----THROUGHOUT 1978

INTELLIGENCE/FBI  
CHARTERS-----PRESIDENT/  
-----BELL/TURNER---SPRING

IV. HIGH PRIORITY NON-PRESIDENTIAL:

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
POLICY-----SCHULTZE/  
-----STRAUSS/  
-----BLUMENTHALL----THROUGHOUT 1978

WIRETAP LEGISLATION-----BELL/TURNER----N.A.

INDIAN OCEAN ARMS  
LIMITS-----BRZEZINSKI----MAY

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REFORM  
AND REORGANIZATION-----VANCE-----THROUGHOUT 1978  
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--PROGRAMS-----VANCE  
--IFI ARREARAGES-----VANCE/  
-----BLUMENTHAL

KOREAN CONVERSION/  
CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL-----VANCE/BROWN--MAY - JULY

PHILIPPINE BASE  
NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED-----VANCE/BROWN--MAY - JULY

PRC NORMALIZATION  
DECISIONS-----VANCE-----SEE BELOW

LAW OF THE SEA  
DECISIONS-----VANCE-----MARCH

MBFR AGREEMENT-----BRZEZINSKI----LATE 1978

#### V. NON-PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY

RATIFICATION OF TTB/PNE----VANCE------(SEE BELOW)

CW/RW-----VANCE-----APRIL

(VICE PRESIDENTIAL TRIPS  
TO CANADA AND MEXICO)-----V.P.-----JANUARY

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY-----VANCE/  
-----MCINTYRE-----PLAN SHOULD  
-----BECOME LAW BY  
-----JANUARY 1978

OPEC/GSP EXCLUSION-----STRAUSS-----N.A.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP  
TO SOUGHEAST ASIA-----V.O.  
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VI. STRATEGIC PACING ADJUSTMENTS:  
SALT (INCLUDING  
BREZHNEV SUMMIT-----PRESIDENT----AGREEMENT IN  
-----APRIL, PRESIDEN-  
-----SPEECH AND MAJOR  
-----THRUST FOR RATI-  
-----IN MAY, EXTENDING  
-----THROUGH SUMMER.

FOREIGN VISITORS-----PRESIDENT-----NEED DISCUSSION

CYPRUS/TURKISH  
BASES;  
GREEK/TURKISH DCA'S-----VANCE-----NEED DISCUSSION

DOD REORGANIZATION  
(COMMAND STURCTURE)-----NEED DISCUSSION

SPEECH ON DEFENSE ISSUES

AND DECISIONS-----PRESIDENT-----FEBRUARY OR MARCH  
-----TO COINCIDE MORE  
-----CLOSELY W/SALT

INDIAN OCEAN ARMS

LIMITS-----VANCE-----MAY FOR POSSIBLE  
-----SIGNING AT SUMMIT

MBFR-----BRZEZINSKI-----EARLY 1979

TTB/PNE RATIFICATION----VANCE-----1979

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
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REFORM AND REORGANI-  
ZATION (EXCEPT IFI  
WHICH MUST BE  
RESOLVED)-----VANCE-----1978-1979

PRC NORMALIZATION-----VANCE-----NEED DISCUSSION

ASAT TREATY-----VANCE/BROWN-----WHEN CONSUMMATED

4. THE FOLLOWING ARE MY SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISIONS IN  
THE DOCUMENT RECEIVED AT THE CABINET MEETING, KEYED TO  
THE CATEGORIES. (PETER: MAY I SUGGEST THAT, FOR THE  
SAKE OF CLARITY THESE CHANGES BE PENCILED IN ON TYPED  
COPY OF CABINET DOCUMENT REPRODUCED IN PARA. 3 ABOVE.)

I. HIGHEST PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY:

NONE.

II. HIGH PRIORITY PRESIDENTIAL:

A) VICE " ECONOMIC SUMMIT", ADD " INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
ISSUES -- INCLUDING SUMMIT AND TRADE/PROTECTIONISM."  
DATE: "THROUGHOUT 1978", VICE "JULY".

B) VICE "NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION", ADD  
"NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, INCLUDING LEGISLATION,  
INFCE AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS".

C) ADD, AFTER "OIL PRICE FREEZE", NEW ITEM:  
"HUMAN RIGHTS (GENERAL)". SUGGESTED PUBLIC LEAD:  
"PRESIDENT/VANCE". DATE: "ONGOING".

III. STRONG PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST:

A) DELETE "HUMAN RIGHTS (GENERAL)", ADDED TO II.

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B) ADD "BROWN/VANCE" TO "BRZEZINSKI" ON GREY AREA SYSTEMS.

IV. HIGH PRIORITY NON-PRESIDENTIAL:

A) VICE "INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY", ADD "INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION (INCLUDING WITTEVEEN; COMMODITIES)". SUGGESTED PUBLIC LEAD: ADD "VANCE" TO "SCHULTZE/STRAUSS/BLUMENTHAL".

B) ADD "VANCE" TO BRZEZINSKI" ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITS. NOTE THAT IT APPEARS AS "VANCE" ALONE UNDER SECTION VI, WHICH SHOULD BE CORRECTED TO READ "BRZEZINSKI/VANCE".

C) ADD "VANCE" TO "BRZEZINSKI" ON MBFR AGREEMENT.

D) ADD AS LAST ITEM UNDER IV: "NATO WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION." SUGGESTED PUBLIC LEAD: "BROWN/VANCE". DATE: "THROUGHOUT 1978".

V. NON-PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITY:

A) ADD "VANCE" TO "STRAUSS" ON OPEC/GSP EXCLUSION.

B) ADD "TERRORISM". SUGGESTED PUBLIC LEAD: "BELL/BRZEZINSKI/VANCE". DATE: "THROUGHOUT 1978".

VI. STRATEGIC PACING ADJUSTMENTS:

A) ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITS, PUBLIC LEAD SHOULD BE "BRZEZINSKI/VANCE", AS NOTED ABOVE.

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B) ADD "VANCE" TO "BRZEZINSKI" ON MBFR.

C) AFTER ASAT TREATY, ADD NEW ITEM: "HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION (GENOCIDE, OTHER CONVENTIONS)". SUGGESTED PUBLIC LEAD: "VANCE". DATE: "DEPENDS ON VOTE ESTIMATES IN 1978".

D) ADD "NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS (CUBA, VIETNAM)". SUGGESTED PUBLIC LEAD: "VANCE". DATE: "DEPENDS ON EVENTS".

5. IF SUGGESTED REVISIONS ARE APPROVED, I WILL TAKE THEM UP WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S STAFF AND SEND FOLLOW-UP MEMO. PLEASE ADVISE. CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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